37 C.F.R. § 1.132 Declaration regarding U.S. Patent Application No. 10/677,874

I, Karolin Steck, do hereby declare the following:

1. I am an employee of Stryker Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG and I act there as a Senior Intellectual Property Specialist.
2. I am familiar with the corporate structure and history of Stryker Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG and the history of Howmedica Leibinger, Inc. and have made a detailed inquiry into the history of the corporate structure of both companies.
3. It is my understanding and belief that Howmedica Leibinger, Inc. and Stryker Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG were different names for the same corporate entity at the time the invention of the present application (Ser. No. 10/677,874) was made.
4. It is my understanding and belief that Stryker Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG became the successor to the entire interest of Howmedica Leibinger, Inc. in the year 2000, and that the assignment of the present application, which was executed after 2000, purporting to be an assignment to Howmedica Leibinger, Inc. was in fact an assignment of the interests of the inventors to Stryker Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG.

05.10.03 K. Steck

Date Dr. Karolin Steck
Senior Intellectual Property Specialist
Stryker Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG